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## OFFICE OF PETITIONS A/C PATENTS

In re Application of

Karen L. Huff

Application No. 08/910,548

Filed: December 26, 1995

For: THROUGH-THE-WASHER-DRYER

POUCH-TYPE DETERGENT BAG AND METHOD

OF USE

DECISION GRANTING

PETITION

This is a decision on the paper filed July 18, 1997, which is properly treated as a petition under 37 CFR 1.181(a) requesting that the above-identified application be accorded a filing date of December 26, 1995. The application was recently forwarded to this office for consideration of the petition.

The petition alleges that the present application was mailed to the Patent and Trademark Office (PTO) via certified mail on December 19, 1995, and received in the PTO on December 26, 1995. However, the petition alleges that approximately one and a half years later the complete application was returned to applicant as a result of a PTO error. In support, the petition is accompanied by the original application papers, a copy of applicant's postcard receipt showing a PTO date stamp thereon of December 26, 1995, and a statement personally signed by the applicant that nothing has been added or deleted from the application papers being resubmitted to the PTO.

In view of the evidence presented, the petition is granted.

The present application has been assigned application No. 08/910,548 and will be processed with a filing date of December 26, 1995, the original date of receipt in the PTO.

For future reference, a postcard receipt should specifically itemize the papers being filed, including the <u>number</u> of pages of

specification, drawings and oath/declaration. Also, new patent applications should be addressed to "Box PATENT APPLICATION, Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, DC 20231."

The application is being returned to Initial Patent Examination Division for further processing with a filing date of December 26, 1995.  $\theta$ 

John F. Gonzales

Senior Legal Advisor

Special Program Law Office

Office of the Deputy Assistant Commissioner

for Patent Policy and Projects

JFG